Import of Homoeopathic Medicines

4273. SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for allowing import of Biochemics, Dilutions, Mother tinctures and specialities of Homoeopathic medicines which are manufactured indigenously and are also being exported;

(b) the details of homoeopathic medicines which are allowed for import but are not sold in the country of origin; and

(c) whether the Government contemplate any change in the policy in view of grave economic crisis ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The import of these Homoeopathic medicines is being allowed by all persons for actual use/stock and sale, with a view to ensure easy availability of such medicines of desired standard and quality. Such imports supplement the indigenously manufactured Homoeopathic medicines.

(b) Cineraria Maritima Succus manufactured by Dr. Willimar Schwabe Gmbh & Co., West Germany, is being imported into the country.

(c) Presently, there is no such proposal under consideration.

Withdrawal of Interest Rates on Debentures

4275. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the withdrawal of interest rates on debentures would hit the banks;

(b) whether the blue chip companies would now prefer capital market to the banks;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to take some steps to attract the blue chip companies to deposit the surplus funds in banks; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Premium for Insurance Cover-up in Flood-prone Areas

4276. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the property owners in flood-prone areas are required to pay a higher premium for insurance cover-up;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the increase in premium in such cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Smuggling of Opium and Morphia

4277. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been large scale increase in the smuggling of opium and morphia particularly from

Eastern Uttar Pradesh for the last one year;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check this smuggling; and

(c) the quantity and value of opium and morphia seized and the number of smugglers apprehended alongwith the places thereof during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) The information available does not indicate any increase in trafficking of opium and morphine in the country and in particular in the Eastern Uttar Pradesh during the last one year. The different drug law enforcement agencies maintain vigilance to prevent such illegal activities.

(c) The quantity of opium and morphine seized during the last three years in the country and number of persons arrested are given below:

Year	*Opium*	*Morphine*	*No. of persons arrested*
1988	3304 Kgs.	23 Kgs.	600
1989	4855 Kgs.	92 Kgs.	831
1990	2114 Kgs.	6 Kgs.	367
1991 (Up to July)	1427 Kgs.	4 Kgs.	515

Since the value of opium and morphine varies based on their consistency/purity, it is not possible to indicate the value of the seized opium and morphine. The opium seizures were made in the States/Union Territories of Delhi, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra and some quantity in Goa, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Assam, Bihar and Tamil Nadu, while morphine was seized in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Bihar.

[English]

Unprovoked Firing by Pakistani Troops in Poonch Sector

4278. SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL:
SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHONSLE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Pakistani troop's unprovoked firing on Indian positions" appearing in the Indian Express dated July 28, 1991;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the number of persons killed during the exchange of fire;

(d) whether any protest has been lodged with the Government of Pakistan in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether any compensation has been paid to the civilians killed in these incidents;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Government have seen the media report. There have been incidents of exchange of fire between Indian and Pakistani forces across the Line of Control, resulting in some casualties on both the sides. It would not be